



# NEWS RELEASE

## PRESS OFFICE

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## ***SMALL BUSINESSES AFFECTED BY NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE CALL-UPS CAN GET ONLINE ASSISTANCE FROM SBA VETERANS OFFICE***

**WASHINGTON** – Small businesses owners or small businesses with essential employees who have been or can be called to active duty by the Reserve or National can get online assistance through a new Web page developed by the U.S. Small Business Administration Office of Veterans Business Development.

The page, <http://www.sba.gov/reservists/>, is part of a larger, comprehensive push by OBVD to provide members of the National Guard and Reserve who own or are an essential employee of a small business with timely information on all SBA programs and services available to them if and when they are called to active duty during a period of military conflict.

**“A call to duty of a key employee can be disruptive and financially taxing for a small business that is not prepared,”** said SBA Administrator Héctor Barreto. **“It is essential that we at the SBA provide small business owners and employees involved in defending our country with the information and tools they need to prepare for and face that possibility.”**

Thus far, since the attacks on America on Sept. 11, 2001, more than 100,000 Reserve and National Guard members have been called to active duty. In anticipation of additional call ups, the SBA has taken these steps to ensure that eligible small businesses are informed of these services.

The site has a list of Veterans Business Development Officers nationwide, information on debt relief, disaster assistance loans, business counseling and training and other SBA resources.

For more information about SBA programs and services for veteran-owned businesses, visit the Office of Veterans Business Development Web site at [www.sba.gov/VETS/](http://www.sba.gov/VETS/). For more information about assistance for businesses with key employees in the National Guard or the Reserve, visit the new Web site at [www.sba.gov/reservists/](http://www.sba.gov/reservists/).

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*For more information about all of the SBA's programs for small businesses, call the SBA Answer Desk at 1-800 U ASK SBA or TDD 704-344-6640, or visit the SBA's extensive Web site at <http://www.sba.gov>.*

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